

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi Votes No on Student Fee Hike at UC Board of Regents Meeting

Regents Vote 17 Yes, 4 No to Raise Tuition on Students for the Fourth Consecutive Year

SAN FRANCISCO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, a University of California regent and California State University trustee, today voted against a 9.3 percent hike in undergraduate student fees for the next school year at the UC Board of Regents meeting. Student tuition will increase by \$662 starting during the summer session.

“We can call this a student fee, but for the fourth year in a row, it’s really yet another tax on students that discourages qualified, hard working high school graduates from entering the University of California,” Lieutenant Governor Garamendi said. “The tax increase on students totals nearly \$1500 over the last four years. In a recession, when families are losing their homes and jobs, our proud public university system must stand as an institution that is available to all qualified students to provide them an opportunity to improve their lives, their communities, and this state.”

Adjusted for inflation, student fees at UC and CSU have more than doubled since 1990, while student fees at California’s community colleges have more than tripled. Because of budget cuts to the systems, UC has cut fall 2009 freshman enrollment by 2,300 students, and CSU has cut fall 2009 freshman enrollment by 10,000 students.

If an additional two percent of Californians earned associate’s degrees and another one percent earned bachelor’s degrees, California’s economy would grow by \$20 billion, our state and local tax revenues would increase by \$1.2 billion a year, and 174,000 new jobs would be created. Of the 4.5 million new jobs that will be available by 2025, it is estimated that 3.5 million will require at least a bachelor’s degree.